

R&T COMMITTEE MEETING 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Katharine Salter, Mark Ogden, Maureen Gardiner, Philip Garrod, Pauline Brown

Apologies: Cath Colman

I Districts update

South East:

Mark reported that there were lots of learners, including 6 at Tuddenham and a number at Henley. This reflected the 52 new members joining the Guild in the last year.

His biggest concern is the logjam of established ringers stuck at plain hunt and PBD. We need to address the chasm between these and those making progress beyond.

He is hoping to arrange a young ringers outing in October half term, school age and these at university, advertised through tower reps. Location is still to be determined. He will check a possible link to Jonathan and Amanda's group.

North East:

The Reydon hub is now an official ART hub, with funding and support. At present there are a number of new ringers in four towers around and the plan is to bring on the existing cohort.

The four towers in the Metfield benefice are starting to cooperate in practices.

The Blythburgh practices are going well, working through standard methods.

In general 6 bell ringing is coming on well, but for higher numbers, towers in the District rely on outsiders including from Norfolk.

Katharine is planning to visit Laxfield.

South West:

Little Cornard and Hadleigh have plenty of ringers including learners. Others generally have few and rely on help from other towers.

Pauline identified a number of individual learners coming on well who would benefit from more opportunities.

Hitcham is progressing steadily with up to 12 ringers at practices, most of whom are new learners of the last two years or so. Individuals there might benefit from opportunities elsewhere.

North West:

There are now a number of centres of 8 bell ringing, the NT (and numbers above), a group based around Bardwell and Horringer, and the developing band at Buxhall. There are also a number of thriving 6 bell practices.

The western part of the District is short of teachers but especially of the support of a few stronger ringers. Katharine suggested that the Stretham centre might be a resource for ringers in these towers

2. Blythburgh Grant application

It was agreed that the R&T committee would report to GMC that:

- The Committee is satisfied that there is a training strategy for the ongoing use of these bells
- However there isn't and is unlikely to be a local band
- It functions as a part of the NE training facility, centred on the Reydon hub.
- The committee will review its criteria for supporting a grant application, to encompass a wider definition of sustainable teaching and ringer development.

On a related issue the committee briefly discussed a proposal likely to come to GMC to restore the 10% grant for restoration projects. It was agreed that the guidelines for awarding these grants (of which training conditions are part) would benefit from review.

3. Action from previous meetings

Ely District ringer allocation system (Autoperry?): Katharine/Henry exploring producing a version for trial in our Guild,

4. AOB

4.1 Katharine suggested that repeating in the Guild the CCCBR Weekend training events was worth considering: NW exploring, NE possibilities at Reydon, Laxfield, SW at Little Cornard

4.2 Katharine reported that St Clements is now available, with power and toilet, so please consider using it. Heating to follow.

4.3 Katharine is considering recombining the 6 and 8 bell competitions, probably in May 2024

5. Actions from this meeting

- Katharine to write to Kate Gill about R&T support for the Blythburgh application
- Philip agreed to review the grant condition originally drafted by him and present a possible revision.
- Golden Bottle – each member to explore possible further simulator sites
- Maureen to follow up Stretham availability for far west NW towers
- Action: R&T to discuss how to apply and perhaps pilot the Ely ringer support system